(d) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a wing to examine, check and verify the recommendations;

(e) if so, what are the details of findings of this wing on these recommendations;

(f) whether Government have evolved any guidelines for allowing escalation and if so, since when they were put in operation; and

(g) what is the legal sanctity of the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (g) The prices of Scheduled bulk drug are fixed/revised in accordance with the provisions laid down under DPCO, 1987 and are notified in the Extra Ordinary Official Gazette from time to time. After January 1991, prices of more than 130 bulk drugs have been fixed/revised. These prices have been fixed/revised in accordance with the cost-*cum*-technical study conducted by the BICP and detailed examination of these reports by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals or on the basis of escalation formula given in BICP Report. The BICP Reports which are confidential in nature are essential input for decision making in the process of Price fixation/revision.

Increasing MAPE in 1986 Measures

1337. SHRI K. G. MAHESH WARAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1666 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th September, 1991 and state:

(a) what are the reasons for increasing MAPE in 1986 measures;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government did not study the adekuacy of commission on drug prices before increasing the trade commission;

(c) what were the basis on which increase in Trade Commission was decided and what is the name of the authority who recommended the increase; and

(d) what steps have been taken to reduce Trade Commission and investigate the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) With a view to stimulate production of drugs & formulations and to provide reasonable return to the producers of essential drugs and reasonable returns to the manufacturers, MAPE had been increased in the Measures announced in December, 1986.

(b) and (c) Since there was increase in MAPE under DPCO, 1987, it was felt necessary to pass on its benefit to trade also. The existing trade commission is based on the recommendations made by the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the then Chairman, BICP.

(d) The extent of trade commission remained a contentious issue even after its increase under DPCO, 1987. Government had, therefore, constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. I. Z. Bhatty, the then Director General, NCERT, for undertaking a detailed and comprehensive study of the pattern of Trade Margins in the Pharmaceutical Industry. Final Report of the Committee is awaited.

Rectification of Discrepancies by B.I.C.P.

1338. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1652 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th September, 1991 and state:

(a) what are the details of discrepancies which were rectified by BICP based on which price increase of Vitamin C and its salts were recommended;

(b) what are the reasons on which discrepancy occured in the original report of BCP and at whose instance it was detected;

(c) what is the stage from which Vitamin C is being produced and what are

the names of the producers and production of each during the last three years, yearwise; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have taken any step to investigate the reasons of discrepancies, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Consultation with BICP in the process of fixing/revising the prices of the bulk drugs by this Ministry is a normal practice and is an essential input in the process of decision making leading to price fixation. The contents of such consultations are usually not disclosed.

(c) The bulk drug Vitamin 'C' and its salts are being produced from basic stage in the country by M/s. Jayant Vitamins and M/s. Sarabhai M. Chemicals. The unitwise production for the last three years to the extent information available is as under:—

Name of the producer	Production in metric tonnes		
	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
1, M/s, Jayant Vitamins	612·47	711·29	660·96
2, M/s. Sarabhai M. Chemicals	218·79	157·47	373·78

(d) Does not arise.

Hike in the Price of Certain Drugs

1339. SHRI M. A. BABY:
CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have hiked the price of Phenobarbitone to Rs. 814 per kg., Phenobarbitone Sodium to Rs. 1047, Chlorhexidine Digluconate to Rs. 940, Pyrantal Pamoate to Rs. 1282 and Hydroxethyl Theophylline to Rs. 527 per kg. and certain other drugs;

(b whether it is a fact that none of the producers applied for price increase;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that imports of these drugs and certain other drugs are much more than the indigenous production;

(e) what was the import of each drug and indigenous production druing 1990-91;

(f) whether it is also a fact that the prices of finished medicines would be fixed on indigenous prices; and

(g) if so, in what way Government would give benefit to consumer on landed cost of import and market prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The prices of these bulk drugs were revised on the basis of cost data available with the Government and in consultation with the BICP, to give the impact on input costs of change in exchange rate of rupee against major foreign currencies.

(d) and (e) The imports of individual bulk drugs are not being monitored by this Ministry. To the extent information is available with the Department, the